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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PINR](#) [OTRA](#) [CB](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR INR/B OFFICER SODERBORG FOR TDY  
TO PHNOM PENH

REF: SECSTATE 35229

1. Embassy Phnom Penh warmly welcomes and hereby grants country clearance to INR/B Biographic Officer Brent Soderborg to Cambodia from May 5, 2007 to May 11, 2007 to support mission biographic programs and consultations with post officers.

2. Hotel reservations have been made at the Hotel Le Royal, as requested. The room rate is within posted per diem. The hotel's address is #92 Rukhak Vithei Daun Penh, Sangkat Wat Phnom, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, phone number: 855-23-981-888, fax number: 855-23-981-189.

3. Post's expediter will meet and assist upon arrival at Phnom Penh international airport.

4. The control officer for the visit is Janet Deutsch, Political Officer arriving at Post on April 27, 2007. Office phone: (855) 23 728-118; Fax Number: (855) 23 728-888. Please contact Economic Officer Curtis Gartenmann at GartenmannCM@state.gov until Janet Deutsch's arrival.

5. Visas: All visitors must have a Cambodian visa. The Mission recommends that travelers entering the country on official or diplomatic passports obtain a visa prior to traveling to Cambodia. If this is not possible, visas may be obtained in the airport. In this case, the traveler should bring a visa-sized photograph with him for inclusion with the visa application. The immigration authorities will generally waive the US \$20.00 fee for travelers on official and diplomatic passports; however, the traveler should be prepared to pay the fee. Regular (tourist) passport holders will be required to pay the fee.

6. Airport Departure Tax: Travelers departing Cambodia for an international destination must pay a US \$25.00 airport tax before clearing passport control. Airport tax for travel to in-country destinations is \$6.00.

7. Security: Street crime remains a concern in Cambodia. Military weapons and explosives remain readily available to criminals despite efforts by authorities to collect and destroy such weapons. Armed robberies occur frequently in Phnom Penh, and while not specifically targeted, foreign residents and visitors are among the victims. Victims of armed robberies are reminded that they should not resist and should surrender their valuables as any perceived resistance may be met with physical violence to include lethal force.

Pickpockets and beggars are also present in the markets and at the tourist sites. Persons visiting Cambodia should practice sound personal security awareness by varying their routes and routines, maintaining a low profile, not carrying or displaying large amounts of cash, not wearing flashy or expensive jewelry, and not walking the streets alone after dark. In addition, we recommend that Americans travel by automobile and not use local moto-taxies or

cyclos for transportation. These vehicles are more vulnerable to armed robberies and offer no protection against injury when involved in traffic accidents. The Embassy provides an after-hours shuttle service for U.S. Embassy employees and TDY visitors until midnight at a cost of \$1.00 per ride. Shuttle tickets may be purchased from the embassy cashier during normal cashier hours.

The Heart of Darkness nightclub in Phnom Penh has been placed off limits to all persons under the authority of the Chief of Mission due to a number of safety and security incidents that have occurred there. American citizens are also advised not to visit that establishment.

Political and labor related public demonstrations occur on a fairly regular basis in the capital city, are generally peaceful and conducted without notable incident. Nonetheless, these gatherings have turned violent on occasion and the Embassy continues to advise American citizens to avoid political rallies, demonstrations, and political party offices where crowds may gather.

Precautions should also be taken not to discuss sensitive or classified matters outside secure environments or over unsecured and/or cellular telephones, and to securely safeguard classified or sensitive materials at the Chancery and not at hotels or residences.

18. Currency/Credit Cards: Cambodia is a U.S. dollar cash economy. While the local currency - the Cambodia Riel - is in usage, dollars are accepted for all transactions. Therefore, there is no need to exchange currency. The Embassy Cashier will cash traveler checks and personal checks of TDY personnel provided their social security number and a photocopy of their passport are presented. A limited number of establishments (including top hotels) accept credit cards. A few banks will provide cash against credit cards but they charge a hefty fee. Post recommends that visitors plan on using cash for

transactions outside their hotels.

19. Post looks forward to your visit.

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